

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 23 March 2016

CONTACT OFFICER: Lise Llewellyn, Strategic Director, Public Health Services across Berkshire

(For all Enquiries) Angela Snowling, Consultant in Public Health, Wellbeing Directorate (01753 87 5142)

WARD(S): All

PART I FOR DECISION

PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Slough Wellbeing Board members of activity on public health in Slough during 2015/16 and help stimulate a discussion and debate around the future priorities and work of the Board (including Slough's Children Services Trust) and the wider partnership.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

- 2.1 That the Board notes and agrees to publish the draft document at Appendix A in principle subject to any comments or amendments that are raised at the meeting.

3. The Slough Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS), the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Council's Five Year Plan

- 3.1 The Annual Report 2015/16 relates to all aspects of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy's (SJWS) *current* priorities and its cross-cutting themes¹ in so far as they relate to children and young people.
- 3.2 The Annual Report is written using information from the latest available needs assessment and evidence supplemented from other information sources such as education and other community services.
- 3.3 The relevant Council priorities/outcomes² are "*Enabling and preventing:*
- Outcome 5 - More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs***
- Outcome 6 - Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances***"

¹ The SJWS is due to be refreshed in 2016.

² Slough Borough Council's 5 Year Plan 2016 - 2021

4. **Other Implications**

- a) Financial - Work on Public Health has implications for all health care providers and commissioners. However this report has no direct financial implications
- b) Risk Management – – n/a
- c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory responsibility to produce an annual report for Public Health. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 states: *“The Director of Public Health for a local authority must prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the area of the local authority. The local authority must publish the report”*. The DHP’s final report will be published electronically on the Council website.
- d) Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) – n/a

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 In general, the statutory responsibilities of the Director of Public Health (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 – where the DPH has a duty to write a report, while it is the authority’s duty to publish it (section 31 of the 2012 Act refers).

5.2 The draft Report at Appendix A therefore pulls together a snapshot of some of the key challenges and inequalities that exist within one group of the population - our children and young people - and describes the impact of these inequalities in later life and on current service provision. The evidence shows that children should be a key focus for attention if we are to address inequalities. If Commissioners and partners are serious in addressing health inequalities in our communities then the early year’s period presents a key intervention point.

5.3 Slough has a young population with a growing number of children. One question would be does the Board work demonstrate this young profile.

5.4 The Report also highlights some of the issues that challenge our children as well as the inequalities that work within this group. Services can be too focussed on clinical conditions and not recognise the huge impact that other issues contribute to outcomes. Education and health are intertwined. Whilst Slough performs well with regard to overall educational attainment in secondary schools and supports children who are eligible for free school meals better than its neighbours, there is a still gap that is significant. In contrast, our children have higher and worsening levels of obesity which will have significant long term health impacts and could put at risk the educational success to date since in general children who are obese do less well educationally.

5.5 The Report shows the key issues that should be addressed to support good health in childhood that should be incorporated into plans to develop health visiting services as part of early year’s services working with Slough’s Children Service’s Trust. The key issues of smoking cessation, breast feeding and childhood obesity are important for both morbidity and mortality.

5.6 Finally, the Report highlights that whilst we should focus on improving children's health (because it has key long term benefits), if we were to focus on improving our support in some of our more deprived wards, then we could alter the pattern of health services use positively over the short term and so improve effectiveness of spend.

6. **Comments of Other Committees / Priority Delivery Groups (PDGs)**

Whilst the Report is the independent report of the DPH and as such does not require public consultation, colleagues from Public Health and Slough's Children's Services Trust have added valuable expertise and helped shape its content.

7. **Conclusion**

- The role of the DPH is to be an independent advocate for the health of the residents in this authority.
- The Annual Report at Appendix A provides an independent review of the health needs and challenges facing one area of our population - not the population as a whole (this information is reflected separately in the JSNA).
- It highlights some of the key challenges and inequalities at work within this group and is intended to help stimulate a debate about what local organisations, including the Board (and the wider partnership), could do in response to these important health issues.
- The Board are asked to consider how this report will influence the work to improve health inequalities

8. **Appendices Attached**

A - DPH's Draft Annual Report 2015/16

B - DPH Annual Report 2014/15 – Summary of achievements

9. **Background Papers**

None