

Public Health

4th Floor, 222 Upper Street, N1 1XR

Report of: Director of Public Health

Meeting of: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 14 March 2023

Ward(s): all wards

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## Subject: Annual Public Health Report 2023: Young People's Health and Wellbeing

### 1. Synopsis

- 1.1. Directors of Public Health in England have a statutory duty to write an Annual Public Health Report (APHR) to consider the state of health within their communities and provide evidence-based recommendations for improving health and wellbeing. The content and the structure of the report is decided locally.
- 1.2. Islington's Annual Public Health Report 2023 focuses on young people's (adolescent) health and wellbeing. Adolescence is a critical developmental period involving significant biological, social, psychological and behavioural changes with long-term implications for health and well-being. This cohort has also been affected by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, putting into stark relief many of the inequalities and effects of deprivation already experienced by this age group.
- 1.3. This APHR is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all health and wellbeing issues affecting young people. It is a high-level report that explores each of these topic areas:
  - Healthy behaviours
  - Mental health
  - Youth Violence and safety
  - Education, training and first steps into employment
  - Long term health conditions

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the content of the report.
- 2.2. To consider and discuss the report's major themes and recommendations, and the role of the Board in helping take forward the work on improving outcomes for young people in Islington.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. Adolescents experience different patterns of need from younger children and adults and this age presents a unique opportunity to intervene and promote health as they are known to experience different behavioural, emotional, and social changes as they transition into adulthood.
- 3.2. The impact of COVID-19 such as remote learning and lock-downs have also meant that they will have spent more time in the home with their family and have been separated from friends/peers. This will have disrupted their education, impacted on health and wellbeing and prevented them from accessing healthcare and support.
- 3.3. The report contains five themed chapters, each structured in the same way to cover:
- 3.4. Local insight: Focusing on inequalities and vulnerable groups, this section aims to build an understanding of young people's views, lived experience and priorities on the topic while presenting a picture of the local situation using local and national data.
- 3.5. What works: A high-level summary of the evidence on what works, using examples of local best practice and identification of local strengths/ assets and case studies. It also captures local strategies/programmes already in place.
- 3.6. Recommendations: each themed chapter sets out key recommendations for local action, developed through extensive engagement with partners
- 3.7. All chapters, including recommendations have been written in consultation with key stakeholders that include Council Officers, Health and Social Care Officers, Commissioners and experts including healthcare consultants.

## 4. Implications

- 4.1. **Financial Implications**
  - 4.1.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report. The measures and recommendations proposed in this report are not currently quantifiable. Any

recommendations from this report, if adopted, will need to be expanded upon and reviewed with the financial implications assessed.

4.1.2.

#### 4.2. **Legal Implications**

4.2.1. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (2012 Act) confers duties on Local authorities to improve public health. Local authorities have a duty to take steps as they consider appropriate for improving the health of people in their area. The 2012 (s30) added in a new s.73A to the National Health Service Act 2006 requiring the appointment of a Director of Public Health. Under subsection s.73B (5), the Director is required to prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the area of the Local Authority and the Local Authority is required to publish this report. 5.4.2 Under the NHS Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Local Authorities are required to take particular steps in exercising public health functions, and the regulations cover commissioning of services.

4.2.2.

#### 4.3. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

4.3.1. Some of the recommendations made by the report will have an environmental impact as services change.

4.3.2.

#### 4.4. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because this report focusses on identifying and addressing inequalities in health and wellbeing for Islington's adolescent population and includes input and feedback from local residents throughout.

## 5. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

5.1. Based on the report's major themes and recommendations, there are both significant strengths and opportunities to improve and support the health and

wellbeing needs of Islington's young people, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 5.2. By working differently together with our local young people, drawing on support from partners across the system, there is the opportunity to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities and support all our young residents to live fulfilling lives.

### **Appendices:**

- Islington's Annual Public Health Report 2023: Young People's Health and Wellbeing. Presentation for the Islington Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Background papers:**

### **Final report clearance:**

Signed by:



**Jonathan O'Sullivan - Acting Director of Public Health**

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