

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 16 March 2015	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Annual Report from the Director of Public Health	
Wards or groups affected:		All	
From:		Ruth Wallis, Director of Public Health	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The board is requested to:
 - a) Note that this year's Annual Report from the Director of Public Health (Appendix 1) focuses on health inequalities and their causes.
 - b) Note that the recommendations in the report reflect the widening role of public health and the importance of partnership work to achieve the necessary system wide changes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Southwark has a diverse population and has seen substantial improvements in overall health over the last 50 years. However, health inequalities still remain in the borough. While there have been many public health successes in Southwark, such as the improvement in life expectancy and reduction in infant mortality and in teenage pregnancy, there is still considerable work to do to reduce health inequalities. Working alongside council colleagues and other partners to do this will require new ways of working, so as to harness the unique potential of directly influencing many of the external factors which result in health inequalities.
3. The annual public health report highlights the main health inequalities in Southwark and what may be driving them. The Marmot Framework and Dahlgren and Whitehead model provide the structure, detailing issues which public health is best placed to address in collaboration with other functions of local authorities and their partners. The conditions in which we live and work, lifestyle factors which affect health, and variations in healthcare are the main areas of focus in the report.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. Key recommendations in the report include
 - Prevent widening economic inequalities and work to sustain the financial resilience of residents through structural interventions, with the most critical being the promotion of the London Living Wage across our local employers.
 - All employers in the borough should be encouraged and supported to adopt good practice in relation to health and safety compliance and evidence-based workplace health programmes.

- Public sector employers engaged in workplace health initiatives should be encouraged to share their knowledge and expertise with other employers as well as using their commissioning and procurement processes to encourage compliance with legislation and good employment practice.
- Homeless prevention services need to reach not only those seeking statutory assistance, but also to others in critical housing situations, living in unstable or unsuitable accommodation and to those facing substantial housing need.
- Work towards a co-ordinated and strategic system to identify those most likely to be at risk of food poverty and ensure that individuals and families at risk are signposted to the appropriate support services.
- The universal care pathway from conception to early years in Southwark should be reviewed and strengthened using the London Maternity Standards and the Healthy Child Pathway to ensure we provide services which are fair for all and appropriate for everyone's needs.
- The council and Southwark CCG extend their engagement with school head teachers and governors to develop a sustainable strategy which improves young people's health and wellbeing and enables them to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- Social relationships and community development should be made policy priorities.

Policy implications

5. The annual report and the recommendations will help to inform on the development of policy frameworks to address health inequalities.

Legal implications

6. The Director of Public Health is responsible for the public health functions of the local authority and has a statutory requirement to produce an annual report on the health of the local population. The publication of this report fulfills this requirement.

Financial implications

7. There are no direct immediate financial implications contained within this report. Any specific financial implications will need to be considered as part of the Council budget setting and other partnership commissioning processes.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers	Held at	Contact
Previous reports of the director of public health	See link	PHAdmin@southwark.gov.uk
Link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/3408/previous_annual_public_health_reports		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2013/14

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead officer	Ruth Wallis, Director of Public Health	
Report author	Ruth Wallis, Director of Public Health	
Version	Final	
Dated	10 March 2015	
Key decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		10 March 2015