

Committee(s): Health and Wellbeing Board: for information	Dated: 6th May 2022
Subject: Children and Covid-19: Annual director of public health report (2020/21)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3 and 4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£ n/a
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	n/a
Report of: Dr Sandra Husbands	For Information
Report author: Sara Bainbridge and Chris Lovitt, Public Health	

Summary

Each year, the director of public health is required to publish a report on "*the health of the people in the area of the local authority*". For 2020/21, the report concerns children and Covid-19. The director of public health annual report (DPHAR) is due to be published online by the end of April 2022. The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is requested to consider and respond to the recommendations within the report. The focus of the next report (for 2021/22) is yet to be confirmed but may be on economic recession and its impact on health.

Recommendation(s)

The HWB is requested to note i) the recommendations within the DPHAR and ii) suggest stakeholders who should receive the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The annual report from the Director of Public Health provides an opportunity to assess the local population's health and, as appropriate, make recommendations to address identified need.¹
2. The report for 2020/21 was delayed due to the need to respond to the Covid pandemic but has now been finalised. It is due to be published online in April 2022.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860515/directors-of-public-health-in-local-government-roles-responsibilities-and-context.pdf

3. This year, the report considers the wider impacts of the pandemic on the health of children and young people. It shows the breadth of effects that the pandemic has had, and that there is a gradient of impact.
4. The report was developed in liaison with stakeholders in both the City of London and Hackney, and informed by desk research. It was discussed by DLT and the Children's Senior Management Team in September 2021. A draft was also reviewed in February and March 2022 by colleagues from the Department of Community and Children's Services. It has subsequently been reviewed by DLT in April 2022.
5. The report uses data and analysis that has been collated in the recently published 0-19 needs assessment. It goes into more detail about six issues which have impacted children during the pandemic:
 - a. Poverty and deprivation
 - b. Mental health
 - c. Childhood immunisation
 - d. Weight and physical activity
 - e. Early years
 - f. Access to healthcare
6. There are five broad areas where the report makes recommendations:
 - a. As the pandemic still has the potential to disrupt crucial services for children (such as education and healthcare) and affect children directly, it is still important to control Covid-19 and prevent illness through vaccination.
 - b. This opportunity must be taken to strengthen and improve our vaccination uptake from all immunisations.
 - c. To reduce inequalities that could have been widened by the pandemic, it is vital that catching up on what's been missed in education and healthcare should be approached in an equitable way.
 - d. New needs have arisen as a result of the pandemic, and these should be recognised and addressed. This includes:
 - i. Addressing obesity by supporting children and young people to eat healthily and move more. Interventions and system-wide efforts that can help children and young people (and their families) maintain a healthy weight will be vital.
 - ii. Making sure children and young people can access mental health support are essential, especially in the context of those who may have been impacted by trauma.
 - e. Closing the gaps: it's important to address poverty with an evidence-based and evaluated approach.
7. The DPHAR will be published online in April 2022 and shared directly with stakeholders.

8. A possible topic for the next DPHAR is the impact of poverty on health, taking into account increasing cost of living pressure and economic downturns.

Current Position

9. The HWB is asked to suggest any stakeholders who should be sent the report directly.
10. Responses to the recommendations from partners across the City of London and Hackney are likely to arise through ongoing work.
11. Public health colleagues are also able to provide an update on the progress made in relation to recommendations in last year's DPHAR on substance misuse.

Key Data

12. In 2020, 3101 children and young people aged between 0 and 24 years old were estimated to live in the City of London.
13. As of February 2022, 642 cases of Covid-19 had been reported in the City of London population aged 0 to 25.
14. In 2020, 2.9% of primary school pupils in the City of London had social, emotional and mental health needs.
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Appendices

Appendix 1. Draft annual director of public health report on children and Covid-19 (PDF)

Appendix 2. [A health needs assessment for the population aged 0-25 for the City of London and Hackney.](#) (link to website)

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