

Committee(s): Community and Children Services Committee: for information	Dated: 8 th June 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) was published in May 2022 and has already been considered by the City of Health and Wellbeing Board. Community and Children’s Service Committee (CCS) is requested to consider and respond to the recommendations within the report. The focus of the 2021/22 report is yet to be confirmed.

Recommendation(s)

The CCS is requested to note and comment on 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 and considered by the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board in May 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 four broad areas where the report makes recommendations:
 - a. Controlling Covid-19 and preventing illness through vaccination. Improving all vaccination uptake and tailoring for children in specific groups is vital.
 - b. Catching up on what's been missed in education and healthcare - in an equitable way. Getting education and healthcare services back on track will be key.
 - c. Addressing obesity by supporting children and young people to eat healthily and move more, and making sure children and young people can access mental health support are both essential.
 - d. Closing the gaps: reducing child poverty must be a priority for all.
7. The DPHAR will be published online in April 2022 and shared directly with stakeholders.

Current Position

8. The CCS and HWB are requested to suggest any stakeholders who should be sent the report directly.
9. Responses to the recommendations from partners across the City of London and Hackney are likely to arise through ongoing work.

Key Data

10. In 2020, 3101 children and young people aged between 0 and 24 years old were estimated to live in the City of London. The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. For the City of London, this proportion is 7.1%, equal to

65 children.²

11. As of February 2022, 642 cases of Covid-19 had been reported in the City of London population aged 0 to 25.

12. In 2020, 2.9% of primary school pupils in the City of London had social, emotional and mental health needs.

Background Paper: Director of Public Health report - children & Covid

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