

## North Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Director of Public Health Report 2022-23.</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Susan Hamilton, Interim Director of Public Health</b>
<b>Executive Member</b>	<b>Cllr Helen Harrison, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing</b>

<b>Key Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Are there public sector equality duty implications?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972</b>	

### List of Appendices

**Appendix A – Public Health in North Northamptonshire - Our Ambitions, Our Journey.** North Northamptonshire Director of Public Health Report 2022/23.

#### 1. Purpose of Report

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1.1. To note the content of the annual Director of Public Health (DPH) statutory report for Northamptonshire.

1.2. To note the key recommendations made in the DPH annual report.

#### 2. Executive Summary

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2.1. The contents of the Annual Director of Public Health Report focus on the ambitions of the Public Health team in North Northamptonshire which was established in 2022-23. This is the first Director of Public Health report for North Northamptonshire, and it details the vision and priorities for improving public health in North Northamptonshire over the next few years. Ambitions for the key areas of public health are outlined Informed by an assessment of the

health of the North Northamptonshire population, by lessons from the history of public health, and also current best practice.

2.2. The importance of using an evidence-based approach to decision making, working with communities using an asset-based approach, maintaining a relentless focus on reducing inequalities, and working in partnership with others in the council as well as with wider stakeholders is recognised. The report outlines how public health will work, both within the department, and also with others in the council and wider stakeholders to achieve the stated ambitions.

### **3. Recommendations**

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3.1. It is recommended that the Board note the contents of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022- 2023 and the recommendations made within it.

3.2. Reason for Recommendations – To accord with legislation or the policy of the council. This is a statutory requirement of the Director of Public Health role.

3.3. Alternative Options Considered – None as this is a statutory requirement of the Director of Public Health role. The North Northamptonshire Public Health team was formed during the period covered by this report. Establishing the priorities for improving public health in North Northamptonshire was a key focus of 2022-23 and provides the focus of this report.

### **4. Report Background**

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4.1. The core purpose of the Director of Public Health (DPH) is to be an independent advocate for the health of the population and system leader for its improvement and protection. DPH's across the country are required to produce an annual report and distribute this to key partners and the wider public. The DPH annual report provides an opportunity to:

- Raise awareness and understanding of the wellbeing of the area
- Identify key issues and challenges relating to the wellbeing of the local population
- Provide added value over and above intelligence and information routinely available
- Reflect on work already undertaken, and the continued impact
- Identify recommendations for future courses of action to improve health and wellbeing locally.

### **5. Issues and Choices**

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5.1. Each year the Director of Public Health (DPH) must decide on a topic that the annual report will cover for that period. At the time of making this decision, the

Public Health team in North Northamptonshire was in the process of being formed following the disaggregation of the Northamptonshire Public Health team into North and West Northamptonshire Councils. The formation of the team provided the opportunity to review the public health priorities for North Northamptonshire and identify the key priorities for the next few years. The culmination of this work is set out in the first DPH report for North Northamptonshire.

5.2. The report reflects on the history of public health in local authorities, detailing the 175-year-old journey of the development of public health legislation and practice in local authorities. Summaries of the Medical Director of Health reports from Wellingborough in 1894 and Kettering in 1918 are included and illustrate the need for preventative partnership working across the council directorates to address the causes of ill health such as poor housing, spread of infectious diseases, and working conditions. These issues are relevant to North Northamptonshire today and are reflected in the priorities in this report.

5.3. The creation of the North Northamptonshire Public Health team provided the opportunity to set out a vision for the team and establish ambitions for the next few years. The commitment of the Public Health team is detailed:

- To develop and support population level interventions to protect and improve health that are based on high quality intelligence and evidence to inform best practice.
- To take a Place and asset-based approach to working with local communities and develop a Community Orientated Health and Social Care System, building on existing strengths to create a sustainable future.
- To maintain a relentless focus on reducing health inequalities
- To work in partnership with all those who value the health and wellbeing of the people of North Northamptonshire
- To commission and deliver evidence-based, high quality, value for money public health services.

5.4. Ambitions for improving public health in the different areas of public health - health protection, health improvement and healthcare public health, are detailed in the report, informed by an assessment of where we are in relation to public health outcomes for North Northamptonshire. Achieving these ambitions relies on strong enabling functions and capabilities - including commissioning; research, evidence and intelligence and communications; as well as developing a skilled and diverse workforce and building a strong department.

5.5. Overarching priorities are outlined in the report. These include a focus on the early years, recognising the importance of the first 1000 days on lifelong health; working with communities; strong partnership working to embed the

public health approach across the council; evidence-based decisions and communications; and delivering high quality public health services.

## **6. Next Steps**

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6.1. Not applicable.

## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **7.1. Resources and Financial**

7.1.1. The production of an Annual Report is a statutory function that should be executed by the Director of Public Health. A budget is therefore put aside for this annually and comes from the Public Health Grant. There are no additional financial implications or council resources required because of this paper.

### **7.2. Legal and Governance**

7.2.1. There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

### **7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans**

7.3.1. The priorities identified in this annual report will assist in delivery of the Corporate Plan and the Integrated Care Northamptonshire 10-year strategy. The emerging North Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy provides an opportunity to address the issues raised in this report.

### **7.4. Risk**

7.4.1. There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

### **7.5. Consultation**

7.5.1. The priorities identified in this report were informed by discussions with public health staff.

### **7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel**

7.6.1. The report has not been considered by an Executive Advisory Panel.

### **7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny**

7.7.1. This report has not been considered by the Scrutiny Committee.

### **7.8. Equality Implications**

7.8.1. Public Health activities seek to identify and address inequalities in health.

### **7.9. Climate Impact**

7.9.1. This report recognises the importance of addressing climate change to improve public health outcomes.

### **7.10. Community Impact**

7.10.1. A better understanding of the issues identified by the DPH will enable the Council to make better decisions on how to support local communities.

### **7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact**

7.11.1. This report recognises the importance of prevention of serious violence and addressing risk factors to reduce crime and disorder.

## **8. Background Papers**

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8.1. None