

**HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
30 AUGUST 2023**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
LIVING IN DARLINGTON AND RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC 2022/2023**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To share with members and wider stakeholders the Director of Public Health Annual Report for the years 2022/23 which has a particular focus on how some of our community responded to the COVID19 pandemic and how they see their future. This report is the last Annual Report of the Director of Public Health by Mrs Penny Spring due to her retirement in June 2023.

Summary

2. Under the 2006 NHS Act (inserted by section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act (2012)) each Director of Public Health is required to produce, and the relevant local authority to publish, an annual report. The subject for discussion in this Annual Report is how young people, families and staff in Darlington responded to the pandemic and how it affected their lives.
3. The report uses the testimony of individual young people, families and staff to explore and discuss the impact of the pandemic on them, their family, their studies and their work and how the legacy continues to affect them. The report is presented in a video format produced with students from Darlington College. The report is structured with different chapters focussing reactions to the pandemic, the impact on working and learning, coping as a family, and working in the NHS.
4. The report reflects that it has been three years since the beginning of the pandemic and that services and staff across Darlington are still recovering. The report also reflects on a number of positive experiences (unforeseen) reported by individuals and families. The Director of Public Health recognised that communities know most about their lives and health-related challenges; this report focuses on the experience of parts of one community; however, the messages about community-based prevention are valid across all settings.
5. Improving population health in Darlington post-COVID-19 requires national policies that promote and protect health and local commitment to strengthening community-based prevention. There is an opportunity to work more closely with NHS partners through the Integrated Care System structures supporting them to develop better systems for higher rates of detection of common high risk factors and treatment of symptoms.

6. The impact of the wider social, environmental, economic and commercial determinants of poor health need to be recognised and adopting a “Health in All Policies” approach to planning locally should be considered.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that: -
- (a) Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee receive the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2022/23.
 - (b) Note the testimony of the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on lived experience.
 - (c) Note the legacy and ongoing impact of the pandemic on local people living and working in Darlington.

Miriam Davidson
Interim Director of Public Health

PennySpring : Extension 6203

S17 Crime and Disorder	No specific impact
Health and Well Being	The key themes of the DPH Report are focussed on health improvement, health protection and addressing health inequality.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	No specific impact.
Diversity	No specific impact.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	A population approach.
Budget and Policy Framework	Not applicable
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	The DPH report is aligned to the Council Plan.
Efficiency	Shared models of working across sectors
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No specific impact.

MAIN REPORT

Please see the link to watch the Director of Public Health report for 2022/2023. Attached at Appendix 1 is the Director of Public Health Annual Report Pamphlet.

<https://youtu.be/8olfCTpIEYc>