

**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 of the Health and Wellbeing Board, wider partners and 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. 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.
5. 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

6. It is recommended that: -

- (a) Health and Wellbeing Board 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.

Reasons

- 7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) The Health and Social Care Act 2012, sets out a requirement for all Directors of Public Health to produce an annual independent report on the health of their local population and for their local authority to publish it.
 - (b) The annual report raises awareness of specific health issues in Darlington.
 - (c) The annual report highlights areas of specific concern, and makes recommendations for change for all partners and stakeholders.

Miriam Davidson
Interim Director of Public Health

Background Papers

DPH Annual Report Pamphlet
DPH Annual Report video (link)

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S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing	This proposed collaborative project will provide improvements for health and wellbeing of residents with Long Term Conditions.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report.
Diversity	There are no implications arising from this report.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	N/A
Urgent Decision	N/A
Council Plan	N/A
Efficiency	N/A
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers or amend

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. Please see the link provided 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>