

Report to Cabinet

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| Title: | Director of Public Health Annual Report |
| Date: | Monday 5 June 2017 |
| Date can be implemented: | Tuesday 13 June 2017 |
| Author: | Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health |
| Contact officer: | [Dr Jane O'Grady - 01296 387623] |
| Local members affected: | None |
| Portfolio areas affected: | [Community Engagement and Public Health, Children's Social Care, and Education and Skills] |

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

It is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health to produce an annual report on the health of their population. The theme of this year's report is the importance of a healthy pregnancy and the first months of life for the health, happiness and success of Buckinghamshire residents. The full report also contains an update on progress made against recommendations in the previous year's annual report on physical activity and is accompanied by a short summary version.

The report highlights the vital importance of factors such as being a healthy weight, eating well and having good mental health during pregnancy and the particular risks to mother and baby of maternal smoking or alcohol or drug use at this time. The health of mothers and babies in Buckinghamshire is generally good, but 7.6% of babies are born prematurely, i.e. before 37 weeks, and 2% of babies born after 37 weeks are low birthweight, which can have lifelong consequences on their health. Births before 34 weeks account for half of all long term neurological disabilities in children and three quarters of neonatal deaths. A range of factors contribute to prematurity and low birthweight, some of which are known and modifiable or avoidable. Known modifiable risk factors include maternal smoking, drug or alcohol misuse, domestic violence and maternal stress. What happens before birth and the early years affects a baby's health and life chances over the whole of their life into adulthood.

The report underlines the importance of maternal mental health for mother and baby and warm and sensitive parenting to help babies and children to develop well, be happy and ready to learn. It also highlights the devastating impact that domestic violence can have on the mother's and baby's health. Nationally 1 in 4 women will experience domestic abuse and it often starts or escalates during pregnancy.

The ability of parents to give children the best start in life also depends on their social context. Many of the factors that impact on the chance of a healthy pregnancy and early childhood cluster together.

In Buckinghamshire, we need to ensure that people are provided with the right information, skills and support to make the best choices and look after their health and that of their baby. Success depends on the contribution of all partners and we need to work together with individuals and communities to improve outcomes for babies, their mothers and families. The report recommends:-

- That key factors that could impact on the mother's, baby's and family's health are identified and addressed by frontline staff
- Buckinghamshire County Council and partners consider developing a comprehensive strategy to support parents in Buckinghamshire
- Data collection is enhanced so we can evaluate the impact of our services
- Schools consider how they can help prepare the next generation to be successful parents
- That all partners consider how they can contribute to improving outcomes for babies, mothers and families in Buckinghamshire.

We are suggesting a workshop with key partners to explore how we can improve outcomes for mothers and babies further.

Recommendation

Cabinet considers and endorses the Director of Public Health's Annual Report.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

It is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health to write a report on the health of the local population and for the Local Authority to publish it (section 73B(5) and (6) of the NHS Act 2006, inserted by section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012).

The Director of Public Health's Annual Report directly relates to the Council's strategic aims 'Safeguarding our Vulnerable' and 'Creating Opportunities and Building Self Reliance'.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

N/A

C. Resource implications

The work of the Public Health team is funded by a specific grant from the Department of Health.

There are six recommendations within this Annual Report and implementing these is not expected to require additional resources and a budget has been set for the current year reflecting the level of grant funding available.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

N/A

E. Legal implications

N/A

F. Property implications

N/A

G. Other implications/issues

N/A

H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

This is a report on the health and wellbeing of mothers and babies in Buckinghamshire. The previous Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health has been involved as the report developed.

I. Communication issues

The findings of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report will be discussed at a themed Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting on 15th June 2017. We are also suggesting a workshop with key partners to explore how we can improve outcomes for mothers and babies further.

J. Progress Monitoring

The report is for all partners and where actions are agreed they will be monitored through relevant business unit plans and at the Health and Wellbeing Board.

K. Review

N/A

Background Papers

N/A

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Member Services Team by

5.00pm on Friday 2 June 2017. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk