

Report to Cabinet

Title:	Director of Public Health Annual Report
Date:	Monday 22 July 2019
Author:	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health
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Local members affected:	all
Portfolio areas affected:	all

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 report is an independent report for all partners in Buckinghamshire.

The theme of this year's annual report is the impact of alcohol on the health and wellbeing of our residents. It is estimated that more than 1 in 4 adults in Buckinghamshire drink at levels above the Chief Medical Officer for England guidelines. This equates to more than 100,000 adults in Buckinghamshire who are at risk of damaging their health. Most of these people are not dependent on alcohol and may not realise they have a problem.

The focus of this report is closely aligned to the following priorities in the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- Priority 1: Give every child the best start in life
- Priority 2: keep people healthier for longer and reduce the impact of long term conditions
- Priority 4: Protect residents from harm
- Priority 5: Support communities to enable people to achieve their potential and ensure Buckinghamshire is a great place to live

Alcohol is widely consumed, legal and widely available and has been part of the social fabric of life for many years in England. However it also contributes to a wide range of physical and mental health problems including breast and bowel cancer, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, depression and dementia. From a health perspective there is no "safe" level of alcohol consumption only lower risk drinking. The more people drink, the higher the risk of

developing problems. Alcohol is the third leading risk factor for death and disability after smoking and obesity.

Alcohol misuse doesn't just affect the individual who is drinking too much but impacts on the people around them including their children and families and the wider community. Alcohol misuse contributes to domestic violence and child abuse, violent crime and road traffic accidents and deaths. The total national annual cost of alcohol to society is £21 billion, including £11bn on alcohol related crime, £7.3 billion due to lost productivity and £3.5 billion to the NHS.

Addressing the harms from alcohol requires national and local action. The report sets out an overview of alcohol in Buckinghamshire and the harms it can cause and includes stories from Buckinghamshire residents about the impact alcohol has had on their lives as well as stories from frontline staff about the issues they see due to alcohol in Buckinghamshire.

This report includes information about what services are available in Buckinghamshire and links to useful resources.

This report aims to stimulate conversation and action across partners and communities in Buckinghamshire to increase awareness of safer drinking levels and what we can do to help reduce the harms from alcohol. There is a role for all partners in this, but particularly for frontline staff in health and social care to routinely ask the simple questions that might result in someone getting the help they need and changing their life for the better.

Recommendation

Cabinet is requested to NOTE and ENDORSE the Director of Public Health Annual Report.

The recommendations in the Director of Public Health Annual report are:

1. Continue to develop multi-agency communications campaigns to
 - promote current advice on safer drinking,
 - raise awareness of the particular risks of drinking in groups at greater risk of harm (pregnant women, adults aged over 65 and young people)
 - promote the benefits of a completely alcohol free childhood
 - promote the full range of services available
2. Ensure that schools are prepared for the implementation of the statutory Health Education element (which includes education on alcohol) of the Personal, Social Health and Economic education, (PSHE curriculum).
3. Increase the knowledge and provide training for key frontline staff on the health risks and wider risks of alcohol and the importance of assessing alcohol intake.
4. Roll out training on identification and brief advice (IBA) across the health and social care integrated care system (ICS) and ensure all ICS partners have processes for assessing and recording alcohol intake through the use of the Audit C tool and increase early referral to appropriate services.
5. Undertake engagement work with target groups to increase uptake of alcohol treatment and support services for under-represented groups

6. Continue to develop and improve services for those with co-existing substance misuse and mental health problems.
7. Implement shared care for alcohol misuse between primary care and specialist services across Buckinghamshire.
8. Work with partners to promote safe drinking in their employees.

This report should be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board to encourage all partners to support and adopt the recommendations in this report.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

It is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health to produce an annual report on the health of their population and for the local authority to publish it. This year's annual report focuses on the impact of alcohol on the health and wellbeing of the population. This is particularly relevant at a time when more than 1 in 4 adults in Buckinghamshire drink at levels above the Chief Medical Officer for England guidelines. This equates to more than 100,000 adults in Buckinghamshire who are at risk of damaging their health. A healthy population is vital for the economic and social success of Buckinghamshire and will help reduce the growth in demand on council services and other public sector services.

Adopting the recommendations of this report will contribute to the reduction of the harms of alcohol drinking.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

The recommendations aim to help maintain or improve the health of the population and if they are not supported there is potential that some opportunities to do this are missed with consequences for children, families, residents, communities and demand for council and partner services such as health and police.

C. Resource implications

This is a report setting out the high level evidence base on the impact of alcohol on the health and wellbeing of our residents. There are no direct financial implications of adopting this report.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

This is a high level report covering a diverse range of areas and therefore cannot be covered by a single value for money assessment. Individual policy decisions may flow from the report which will have individual value for money assessments.

E. Legal implications

No direct implications.

F. Property implications

No direct implications.

G. Other implications/issues

This report is for partners as well as Buckinghamshire County Council and will be disseminated and presented after approval by Cabinet in a variety of forums.

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

The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health has reviewed and approved the report. The report has also been shared with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing at the CHASC Business Unit Board.

Local Members will be sent copies of the report after Cabinet Decision and the report is also being presented at Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee and Health and Wellbeing Board.

I. Communication issues

Normal communication channels will be used to disseminate the report.

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 please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on Friday 19 July 2019. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk